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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [SU](#) [QA](#) [EG](#)  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES DARFUR,  
DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH QATAR

Classified By: Ambassador Joseph E. LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b and d).

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(C) KEY POINTS  
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-- At a February 25 meeting with Ambassador, Egyptian Ambassador Abdul Aziz Daoud confirmed that no date had been set for Round 2 of the Doha talks on Sudan. He stated that two small delegations remained in Doha, and were expected to submit position papers before Round 2.

-- Ambassador Daoud agreed that the next major event in the process would be the decision of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on whether to issue a warrant for the arrest of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. He noted that Egypt favors an Article 16 deferment.

-- The Egyptian Ambassador remarked that while Egypt welcomed the GOQ initiative on Darfur, Qatar's "active diplomacy" on Israeli-Palestinian issues had "raised sensitivities" in Egypt, to the detriment of the Egypt-Qatar bilateral relationship.

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(C) COMMENTS  
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-- At the close of the first round of talks on February 17, the parties had hoped to reconvene for a second round within two weeks. The fact that a firm date for the resumption of the talks has not been set is not surprising, given that the ICC announcement is imminent. All parties to the consultations are no doubt aware of the impact it could have on the Darfur peace process.

End Key Points and Comments.

¶1. (C) At a February 25 meeting with Ambassador, Egyptian Ambassador Abdul Aziz Daoud stated that the Sudanese Charge d'Affaires recently met with MFA Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmed Bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, but that no date had been set for Round 2 of the Doha talks on Darfur. He stated that two small delegations remain in Doha, and are expected to submit position papers before Round 2.

¶2. (C) Ambassador Daoud agreed that the decision of the ICC on whether to issue a warrant for the arrest of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, expected on March 4, would be a critical moment in the process. He cautioned that some Arab states would react negatively to the issuance of a warrant, and might continue to work with Bashir while seeking an deferment of the ICC proceedings under Article 16 of the ICC statute. (Note: The ICC statute allows the Security Council to defer ICC proceedings for up to one year at a time. End note.) Daoud stated that, should the warrant be issued, Egypt would "be interested in" such a deferment.

13. (C) The Egyptian Ambassador remarked that while Egypt welcomed the GOQ initiative on Darfur, Qatar's "active diplomacy" on other issues has "raised sensitivities" in Egypt. He noted that President Mubarak visited Doha in February 2006, and that Amir Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani made an official trip to Egypt in June 2007. Daoud said that Qatar's actions since that time, particularly on the issues of Gaza and Hamas-Fatah reconciliation, have damaged the Egypt-Qatar bilateral relationship. He said that Egypt had an important role to play on such issues, and that Qatar's efforts were "an attempt to steal issues in Egypt's neighborhood."

LeBaron